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(71) Applicant: **NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
101 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BU(GB)

(72) Inventor: **Sutherland, Ian Wishart**
61 Alnwickhill Road
Edinburgh EH16 6NJ Scotland(GB)

(74) Representative: **Percy, Richard Keith**
Patent Department National Research Development Corporation 101 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BU(GB)

(54) **Gel-forming polysaccharides.**

(57) The invention provides a polysaccharide which undergoes cation-induced gelation to form gels of useful strength at relatively low concentration of cation, and which melt and set sharply and reversibly. It has a marked preference in terms of gel strength for cations of sodium rather than other group Ia elements and calcium rather than other Group IIa elements. It contains *D*-glucose, *L*-fucose and *D*-glucuronate residues in the approximate molar ratio of 3:1:1. The polysaccharide can be isolated from the bacterium NCIB 11870. Its gels are useful in food and medicine for addition to a variety of foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals. They can be prepared simply by adding the appropriate cations to a dilute aqueous solution of the polymer at ambient temperature, whereupon the gel forms rapidly. If desired the gel initially formed can be melted and re-set.



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Application number

EP 84 30 4544

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 80, no. 12, 10th June 1974, page 345, no. 131678b, Columbus, Ohio, US; & JP - A - 73 91 288 (AJIMOTO CO., LTD.) 28-11-1973		C 12 P 19/04 C 12 N 1/20 C 08 B 37/00

A	PATENTS ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 3, no. 50 (C-44), 27th April 1979; & JP - A - 54 27 517 (KURARAY K.K.) 03-01-1979		

A	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 98, no. 5, 31st January 1983, page 538, no. 33072h, Columbus, Ohio, US; & JP - A - 57 146 589 (NICHIDEN CHEMICAL CO., Ltd.) 09-03-1981		

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			C 12 P C 08 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 29-01-1986	Examiner LENSEN H.W.M.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			